- 208,274 -283,774

By STEPHEN BRAUN

There are 32 stars painted on the entrance to CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. Soon there will be 33.

The stars represent CIA agents who have been killed

in the line of duty. The 33rd star is for Richard S. Welch, killed by assassins outside Athens last December, after being exposed a month earlier as a CIA officer by a leftist newspaper in Athens.

In the past year, CIA agents have been indentified by leftist periodicals in Lisbon, Mexico City, Stockholm, London, and more recently in Rome, Madrid and Paris. Of these periodicals, the one with the longest track record and the greatest notoriety is Counterspy magazine, an an-

ti-CIA quarterly which operates out of Washington.
Counterspy exposed Richard Welch as a CIA agent in an issue published in early 1975. The founders and co-editors of Counterspy, Winslow Peck and Tim Butz, say they were not the first to print Welch's name. Claiming they only reprint names of already-exposed CIA agents, Peck and Butz say they first found Welch's name in a German compilation of CIA agents called "Who's Who in the CIA." They were given his name again by two priests who had worked in South America and reported seeing Welch identified as an agent in a Peruvian English-language on newspaper.

In response to statements by former CIA director William Colby and other supporters of the CIA that Counter-

spy is morally culpable for Welch's death, Butz says, "We feel the CIA has been using the Welch murder as a podium to attack critics of the CIA. They blame us, but they're the ones who are inviting assassinations of their own agents. Their Greek station chiefs have been living in the same house for 25 years, and after Welch was killed, they just moved the new station chief into the same house. As long as they do these kind of things, there are bound to be more agents killed."

David Phillips, former chief of CIA Latin American operations and head of the pro-CIA Assn. of Retired Intelligence Officers, vehemently disputes Butz's defense of Counterspy.

"For the first time in history a group of civilians are trying to disrupt the functions of intelligence officers abroad, "he said." To expose their follow citizens to the danger of terrorist attacks in reprehensible, to put it mildly. I wonder whether or not the publications violate the civil rights of the agents' families."

Phillips admits the CIA has not been providing a deep

enough cover for its agents, but says the CIA only wanted to save money. "There's obviously going to be a tendency to move toward a deeper cover, but it will cost the American taxpayer more to foot the bill."

Counterspy's avowed goal is the eventual abolishment of the CIA. Peck and Butz freely admit they have no idea what, if anything, should be substituted for the CIA. Eda Gordon, another Counterspy editor, explains: "At this point we're merely an adversary group. Beyond abolishing what is, we really don't have a clear concept of what should replace the CIA. We don't feel this is a cop-out. Once all the issues are raised and discussed, something coherent will come out of it."

Gordon also says Counterspy is skeptical of recent

Stephen Braun is a member of The News American staff.